

SMITH -- 10/693,610
Client/Matter: 050377-0306115

IN THE DRAWING(S):

The attached Replacement Sheet 2/3 includes changes to Figure 2. This sheet replaces the original sheet showing Figure 2. As shown in red in the attached Annotated Sheet, Figure 2 is amended to change reference "4" to reference "40."

Attachments: Replacement Sheet 2/3
Annotated Sheet 2/3

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 were pending. By this Amendment, Figure 2 is amended, claims 1, 14, 17, 18, 22, 23, and 25-27 are amended, and new claims 28-30 are added. Reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1-31 in view of the following remarks are earnestly solicited. These claim amendments are made to more broadly cover the subject matter of various embodiments of the present invention. New claims 28-31 are added to further distinguish the present invention from the cited prior art.

Drawing Objection

The drawings were objected to because reference characters “4” and “40” have both been used to designate the “order hole” in Figures 2 and Figures 1, 3 and 4, respectively. Applicant traverses this rejection because the “order hole” in the originally filed Figure 2 was properly identified by the reference character “40.” The “Replacement Sheet 2/3” attached hereto is an exact copy of the originally filed Figure 2. The “0” from “40” was apparently not imaged correctly when the U.S.P.T.O. scanned the originally filed application.

Nonetheless, to efficiently advance prosecution of this application, Applicant hereby amends Figure 2 to change reference number “4” to reference number “40.” This amendment is shown in the attached Replacement Sheet 2/3, which is a direct copy of the originally filed Figure 2. The amendment is also illustrated in red in the attached Annotated Marked-up Drawing Sheet 2/3 as required by 37 CFR 1.121(d)(1). The Annotated Marked-up Drawing Sheet 2/3 is a copy of Figure 2 taken from the image file wrapper, with Applicant’s new annotations in red thereon.

Anticipation Rejection Based on Elbe (U.S. Pat. No. 1,408,182)

Claims 1-6, 8-11, 14-19, 21-24, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Elbe (U.S. Pat. No. 1,408,182). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Amended claims 1 and 14 each recite, among other recitations, that “a force applied by the closer to move the gripping segments of the workpiece holder from the released to the gripping positions is transferred to the workpiece holder through the biasing structure.” Amended claim 27 recites, among other recitations, “applying a force with the closer through a biasing structure to the workpiece holder.” Elbe discloses a push-out-to-close collet in which the closing force of the slidable sleeve b1 is transferred to the jaws D via the collar A, not “through the biasing structure” as recited in amended claims 1, 14, and 27. *See* Elbe, p. 2, lines 35-42 (“The work is inserted between the jaws [D] and the sleeve b’ is moved forwardly by means of the lever b². When the sleeve b’ engages the collar A, the

collar A is moved forwardly. The jaws D are moved upon one another because of their contact upon the tapered bore of the ring F.”). The spring a⁷ disclosed in Elbe merely tends to expand the jaws D. *See* Elbe, p. 2, lines 12-25. Accordingly, Elbe does not disclose or suggest the combination of recitations in amended claims 1, 14, or 27. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of claims 1, 14, and 27, as well as their respective dependent claims, which are allowable at least because they depend from allowable independent claims.

Anticipation Rejection Based on Curtis (U.S. Pat. No. 6,260,885)

Claims 1-8, 14-21, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Curtis (U.S. Pat. No. 6,260,885). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Amended claims 1 and 14 each recite, among other recitations, that “a force applied by the closer to move the gripping segments of the workpiece holder from the released to the gripping positions is transferred to the workpiece holder through the biasing structure.” Amended claim 27 recites, among other recitations, “applying a force with the closer through a biasing structure to the workpiece holder.” As shown in FIG. 2 of Curtis, a force applied by a draw rod 62 to a collet 32 is transferred to the collet 32 through a contractor 14, not “through the biasing structure,” as recited in claims 1, 14, and 27. This force is not transferred through the spring 86 or the spring 78 disclosed in Curtis. Accordingly, Curtis does not disclose or suggest the combination of recitations in amended claims 1, 14, or 27. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of claims 1, 14, and 27, as well as their respective dependent claims, which are allowable at least because they depend from allowable independent claims.

Anticipation Rejection Based on Atkinson (U.S. Pat. No. 4,477,095)

Claims 1-6, 8, 14-19, 21, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Atkinson (U.S. Pat. No. 4,477,095). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Amended claims 1 and 14 each recite, among other recitations, that “a force applied by the closer to move the gripping segments of the workpiece holder from the released to the gripping positions is transferred to the workpiece holder through the biasing structure.” Amended claim 27 recites, among other recitations, “applying a force with the closer through a biasing structure to the workpiece holder.” In Atkinson, a collet C is directly threaded to the draw tube 34 (Atkinson, col. 2, lines 50-53) such that the force applied by the draw tube 34 is not “transferred to the workpiece holder through the biasing structure,” as recited in claims 1, 14, and 27. This force is not transferred through the coil spring 40

disclosed in Atkinson. *See* Atkinson, col. 2, lines 53-60. Accordingly, Atkinson does not disclose or suggest the combination of recitations in amended claims 1, 14, or 27. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of claims 1, 14, and 27, as well as their respective dependent claims, which are allowable at least because they depend from allowable independent claims.

Obviousness Rejection

Claims 7 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Atkinson in view of Curtis. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection at least because claims 7 and 20 depend from allowable independent claims. As demonstrated above, none of the cited references, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the combinations of recitations in independent claims 1, 14, and 27. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 14, and 27, as well as their respective dependent claims, including claims 7 and 20, are non-obvious. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of claims 7 and 20.

May 5, 2005 Information Disclosure Statement

On May 5, 2005, Applicant filed an information disclosure statement. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to sign and return the two page Substitute for form 1449A/PTO that the Applicant submitted with the May 5, 2005 IDS to confirm the Examiner's review and consideration of the references cited therein.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the present application, including claims 1-31, is in condition for allowance, an early notice of which is earnestly solicited.

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Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Replacement Sheet 2/3
Annotated Sheet 2/3

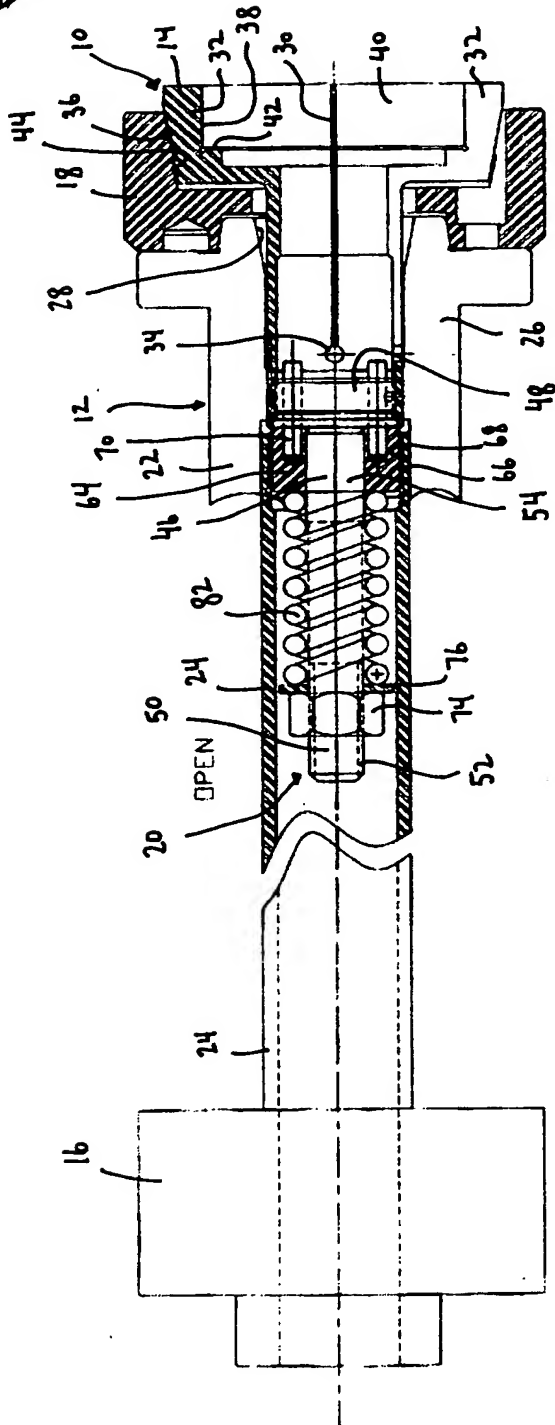


FIG. 2

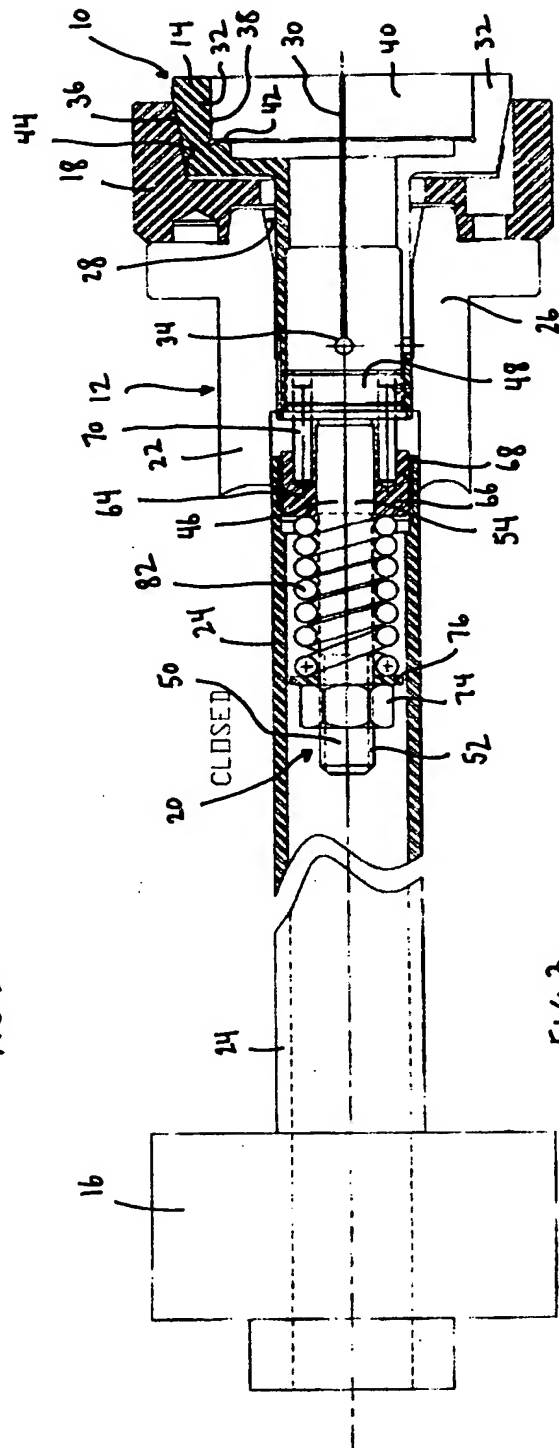


FIG. 3

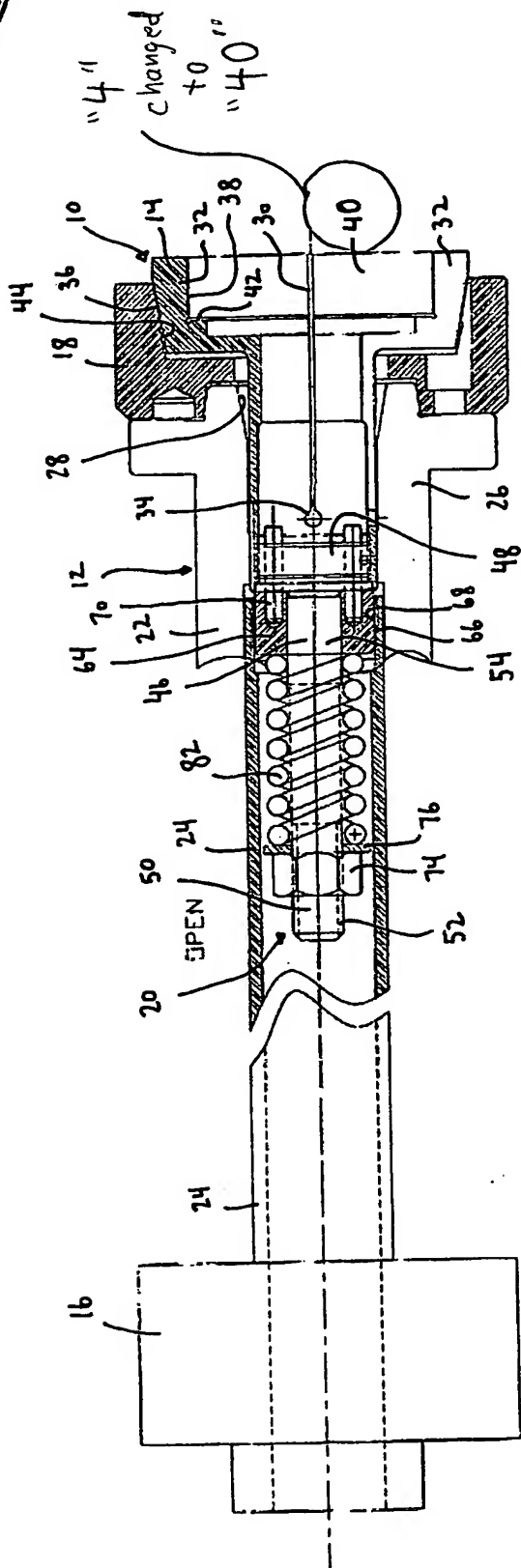


FIG. 2

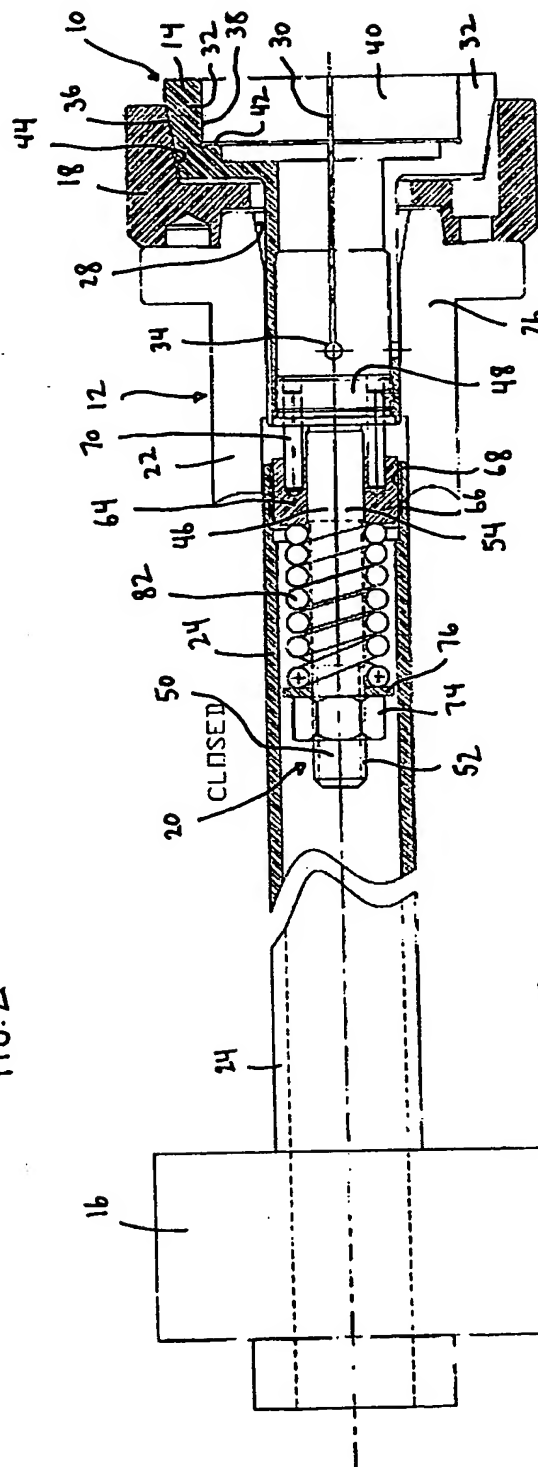


FIG. 3